

## FutureFest 2003

More than 150 careers will be represented at the Porter County Expo Center on October 16 for the largest career day in the state for area 7th graders. FutureFest is designed to expose students to a wide variety of career options and for them to learn what it takes to pursue various occupational paths.

Students will communicate directly with a range of adults during the "trade show like" event. Students will learn about the skills necessary to be successful in many different job-related areas. Career representatives will bring hands-on tools of the trade for the students to investigate. More than 1,500 Porter County seventh graders from nine different middle schools will attend.

## Employment Trends

### July Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 5.4 percent. This is nine tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 6.3 percent.

Just over 3 million Hoosiers were employed during July.

Indiana's July unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 8.0 percent; Ohio, 6.4 percent; Illinois, 6.6 percent; and Kentucky at 6.2 percent.

### August Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 8-2-03	69,751
Week of 8-9-03	68,666
Week of 8-16-03	67,537
Week of 8-30-03	64,714

## JOBS Facts

### Job Opportunities Business Services

The Department of Workforce Development will use pre-assessment tools to help workers identify what their career interests are, in an effort to lead Hoosiers to the career that best suits them.

INDIANA  
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An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### The last of 12 Energize Indiana forums held in Gary

Governor Joe Kernan and five members of his administration visited Gary to provide a primer on the state's Energize Indiana economic development plan. More than 225 business people, local economic development experts, elected leaders and others from a four-county area in Northwestern Indiana gathered to hear how they can grow businesses, undertake research and create jobs through Energize Indiana.

Those in attendance learned how Energize Indiana can help them create high-wage, high-skill jobs in four industry sectors – the life sciences, advanced manufacturing, information technology and high-tech distribution.

Al Degner, commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development, said that, because of Energize Indiana his department will replace obsolete computer equipment. This will make the unemployment insurance system better for both workers and businesses and allow them to conduct business online. Degner also described JOBS – Job Opportunities Business Services – a program that will, among other things, assess workers' skills and profile job categories – and match them.

### Rapid Response keeps Indiana working

When a company has to lay off workers, both employer and employees face a tremendous upheaval. The U.S. Department of Labor, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and local WorkOne Centers have designed a system to help employers comply with government regulations, meet business needs and find reemployment assistance for their workers.

With your help, the Indiana Rapid Response Team can be at your company before a layoff occurs to start getting your workers ready for the change. DWD's Rapid Response unit is comprised of four out-stationed coordinators and a central manager. They respond quickly to notices of plant closure or mass layoff across the state.

The unit responds by including an initial on-site meeting with company and union officials, holding workers orientation sessions, establishing a Worker Adjustment Committee and arranging for early intervention services. Community-based organizations and local elected officials are often included as part of the strategic planning effort in developing a coordinated response to a dislocation.

According to Sharon Langlotz, director of the DWD Dislocated Worker Unit, "The Rapid Response coordinators, backed by local area staff have been working very hard all over the state to bring information and services to employers and workers facing the difficult situation of downsizing and job loss.

### Bayh sponsored job fairs and small business summits around Indiana

U.S. Senator Evan Bayh brought together 160 companies with more than 3,400 job openings to meet with Hoosiers looking for jobs during a series of job fairs and small business summits he hosted in towns throughout Indiana this August.

The summits were designed to provide Hoosiers with practical tools and advice needed for economic success all in one place. At the same time, entrepreneurs attended workshops on topics including business basics, accessing capital, exporting goods and services and doing business with the government.

DWD's role in the summits was to market the event to clients, as well as work with the local area Chambers of Commerce to attract area businesses and organizations to the event. Commissioner Al Degner spoke at the events in New Albany and Indianapolis.